CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for electronically making a payment to an agent and a brokerage for a transaction involving payment for goods or services between a customer and the brokerage, the

5   transaction comprising a card-based payment by the customer using a payment processor and intermediated by a payment coordinator, comprising the steps of:

communicating payment information and agent information via a telecommunication session between the payment terminal to a receiving processor over a communication network, said payment information entered into the payment terminal by the agent;

10   carrying out card payment by the receiving processor capturing the payment information and the agent information, obtaining electronic authorization from a card issuing authority, and transmitting an electronic confirmation of the card payment to the payment terminal;

sending the payment information and the agent information to a payment processor operated by the payment coordinator;

15   transferring an amount of funds for the transaction to a payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through a brokerage trust account and a payment coordinator clearing account, under direction of the payment processor; and

performing electronic fund transfers from the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account to an agent account and a brokerage account by executing an EFT execution file, the

20   execution file prepared to effect an allocation of funds determined by a split settlement processor in accordance with a pre-determined set of allocation rules after receiving disbursement information from the payment processor.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the card is a debit card and the payment processor comprises a debit processor.

25   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of transferring an amount of funds for the transaction to a payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through a brokerage trust account and a payment coordinator clearing account comprises the prior step of:

transferring funds of the amount from an account of the customer with the debit card issuing institution into the brokerage trust account through an account of the payment

30   processor.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the card is a credit card and the payment processor comprises a credit processor.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of transferring an amount of funds for the transaction to a payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through a brokerage trust
5 account and a payment coordinator clearing account comprises the prior steps of:

sending payment information to an acquirer; and

the acquirer remitting funds to the brokerage trust account for covering the payment.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the brokerage trust account and the payment coordinator clearing account are the same account held at the same financial institution.

10 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the brokerage trust account, the payment coordinator clearing account, and the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account are the same account held at the same financial institution.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing electronic fund transfers from the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account comprises a transfer to an payment
15 coordinator account.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the brokerage is one selected from the group comprising of a taxi brokerage, a limousine brokerage, and an airport shuttle brokerage.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment terminal is a wireless payment terminal.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the payment information and agent information are
20 communicated over a GPRS network to the receiving processor.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the payment terminal communicates with the receiving processor using a wired medium.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the payment terminal comprises hardware and software elements for identifying the agent, and at least one of the group comprising a built-in Wireless
25 Application Protocol browser, a graphical display, a built-in printer, and a wireless phone.

14. A system for electronically making a payment to an agent and a brokerage for a transaction involving payment for goods or services between a customer and the brokerage, the transaction comprising a card-based payment by the customer intermediated by a payment coordinator, comprising:

a payment terminal operated by the agent for wirelessly sending the payment information and agent information;

a receiving processor operated by the payment coordinator for receiving the payment information and agent information from the payment terminal, and transmitting selectively the

5   payment information and agent information;

a payment processor operated by the payment coordinator for receiving the transaction information from the receiving processor, and transferring an amount of funds for the transaction to a payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through a brokerage trust account and a payment coordinator clearing account, and preparing disbursement information for further

10   transmission; and

a split processor operated by the payment coordinator for receiving the disbursement information from the payment processor, and preparing an EFT execution file for execution at a financial institution housing the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account, the EFT execution file prepared to effect an allocation of funds to an agent account and a brokerage

15   account determined in accordance with a pre-determined set of allocation rules.

15.   The system of claim 1, wherein the card is a debit card and the payment processor comprises a debit processor.

16.   The system of claim 15, wherein The debit processor effects a transfer of funds of the amount for the transaction from an account of the customer with the debit card issuing institution

20   into the brokerage trust account through an account of the debit processor prior to transferring funds to the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through the payment coordinator clearing account.

17.   The system of claim 14, wherein the card is a credit card and the payment processor comprises a credit processor.

25   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein:

the credit processor sends payment information to an acquirer; and

the acquirer remits funds to the brokerage trust account for covering the payment prior to the transferring funds to the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through the payment coordinator clearing account, under instructions of the acquirer.

30   19.   The system of claim 14, wherein the brokerage trust account and the payment coordinator clearing account are the same account held at the same financial institution.

20. The system of claim 14, wherein the brokerage trust account, the payment coordinator clearing account, and the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account are the same account held at the same financial institution.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the allocation of funds further includes a disbursement to

5 an payment coordinator account to be effected by the electronic fund transfer.

22. The system of claim 14, wherein the brokerage is one selected from the group comprising of a taxi brokerage, a limousine brokerage, and an airport shuttle brokerage.

23. The system of claim 14, wherein the payment terminal is a wireless payment terminal.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the payment information and agent information are

10 communicated over a GPRS network to the receiving processor.

25. The system of claim 14, wherein the payment terminal communicates with the receiving processor using a wired medium.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the payment terminal comprises hardware and software elements for identifying the agent, and at least one of the group comprising a built-in Wireless

15 Application Protocol browser, a graphical display, a built-in printer, and a wireless phone.

27. A method for electronically making a payment to a driver and a taxi brokerage for a transaction involving payment for a taxi fare between a rider and the taxi brokerage, the transaction comprising a card-based payment by the rider using a wireless payment processor and intermediated by a payment coordinator, comprising the steps of:

20 communicating payment information and driver information via a telecommunication session between the payment terminal to a receiving processor over a GPRS communication network, said payment information entered into the payment terminal by the driver, and the payment terminal comprises hardware and software elements for identifying the agent, and at least one of the group comprising a built-in Wireless Application Protocol browser, a graphical

25 display, a built-in printer, and a wireless phone;

carrying out card payment by the receiving processor capturing the payment information and the driver information, obtaining electronic authorization from a card issuing authority, and transmitting an electronic confirmation of the card payment to the payment terminal;

sending the payment information and the driver information to a payment processor

30 operated by the payment coordinator;

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transferring an amount of funds for the transaction to a payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account through a taxi brokerage trust account and a payment coordinator clearing account, under direction of the payment processor; and

performing electronic fund transfers from the payment coordinator electronic fund transfer account to an driver account, a taxi brokerage account and a payment coordinator account by executing an EFT execution file, the execution file prepared to effect an allocation of funds determined by a split settlement processor in accordance with a pre-determined set of allocation rules after receiving disbursement information from the payment processor.